



# Charlotte County Owner's Manual

The *Charlotte County Owner's Manual* is created and produced by the  
Charlotte County Board of County Commissioner's Communications Department.

Communications Department  
Charlotte County Administration Center  
18500 Murdock Circle  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Cover photo: Vitalik Zhigulin

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[CharlotteCountyFL.gov/social](https://CharlotteCountyFL.gov/social)



# Table of Contents

<b>Welcome &amp; History</b> .....	<b>4</b>	<b>Public Safety</b> .....	<b>15</b>
History .....	4	Fire/EMS.....	15
<b>Elected Officials</b> .....	<b>6</b>	Animal Control .....	15
Board of County Commissioners .....	6	Office of Emergency Management .....	15
Clerk of the Circuit Court .....	7	<b>Hospitals</b> .....	<b>16</b>
Property Appraiser .....	7	Bayfront Health Port Charlotte.....	16
Charlotte County Sheriff's Office .....	8	Bayfront Health Punta Gorda .....	16
Supervisor of Elections .....	8	Fawcett Memorial Hospital .....	16
Tax Collector .....	9	<b>Education</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>On-Screen and Online Services</b> .....	<b>9</b>	Charlotte County Public Schools .....	17
Charlotte County CC-TV .....	9	Alternative Education, Local Colleges & Universities .....	17
Charlotte County Website.....	9	<b>Pet Adoption</b> .....	<b>17</b>
Charlotte County, FL App .....	9	<b>Human Services</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>Getting Around</b> .....	<b>10</b>	Family Services Center .....	18
Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles .....	10	Veteran Services .....	18
Airports .....	10	Aging & Adult Services .....	18
Charlotte County Transit.....	10	Intake Services .....	18
<b>City of Punta Gorda</b> .....	<b>11</b>	Neighborhood Services .....	18
City Elected Officials.....	11	<b>Services</b> .....	<b>19</b>
City Services.....	12	Water/Sewer .....	19
<b>Arts &amp; Museums</b> .....	<b>13</b>	Garbage & Recycling.....	19
Performing Arts.....	13	<b>Community Development</b> .....	<b>20</b>
Visual Arts.....	13	Building Construction Services.....	20
Culture & Museums .....	13	Planning, Zoning and Land Information.....	20
<b>Community Services</b> .....	<b>14</b>	Comprehensive Planning Division .....	20
Parks .....	14	Zoning Division .....	20
Recreation .....	14	Special Projects Division .....	20
Extension Service.....	14	<b>Public Works</b> .....	<b>21</b>
Libraries & History Services .....	14		
Natural Resources.....	14		



# Welcome & History



Welcome to beautiful Charlotte County, Florida. Located on the banks of Charlotte Harbor, Charlotte County features an abundance of beautiful vistas, sporting activities for all ages, and a relaxed lifestyle. Charlotte County Government has created this Owner's Manual to acquaint you the local government, organizations and the resources available in your community.

We encourage you to visit the county government in Charlotte County or access the many resources online at

[CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://CharlotteCountyFL.gov).

## History

Prior to European contact, southwest Florida was occupied by Native Americans of what are now called the Safety Harbor and Caloosahatchee cultures. When the Spanish first arrived in the vicinity of Charlotte Harbor, the dominant people in the region were the Calusa, and it was they who encountered Juan Ponce de Leon, first in 1513 during his first exploration of the Florida peninsula and again in 1521 when he unsuccessfully attempted to establish a Spanish colony in the region. By the early 18th century, ravaged by disease and war, surviving Calusa joined the Native American group now known as the Seminole. From then until the end of the Civil War, settlement in what is now Charlotte County was confined to Cuban ranchos, small military and/or trading posts and cattle docks.

As American settlers moved further west and south after the American Revolution, and Florida became a U.S. territory in 1821, Maskoki-speaking Native Americans from Georgia, Florida, Alabama and other parts of the southeast who had survived disease and warfare gradually moved further south into the Florida peninsula. These cimarrones (runaways), or "Seminoles," as they became known in English, fought a series of wars against the U.S. Army from 1817–1858 that disrupted Native and Euro-American life throughout South Florida and the Peace River valley. They were never defeated and never surrendered, staying in South Florida despite the relocation of many of their people to Oklahoma, and were formally recognized by the federal government in 1957.

After 1865, permanent settlements began to flourish in what is now Charlotte County—Charlotte Harbor, Hickory Bluff, Punta Gorda, Cleveland—and continued to expand with the introduction of the railroad and prosperous industries like turpentine, timber, fishing and phosphate in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. This made the region a destination for both permanent and temporary "snowbirds," and contributed to the decision to build the first bridge over Charlotte Harbor. Begun in 1916 thanks to the issuance of \$200,000 in bonds by the town of Charlotte Harbor and Punta Gorda, the project suffered setbacks during World War I but was finally completed and opened on July 4, 1921, just a few months after the creation of Charlotte County.

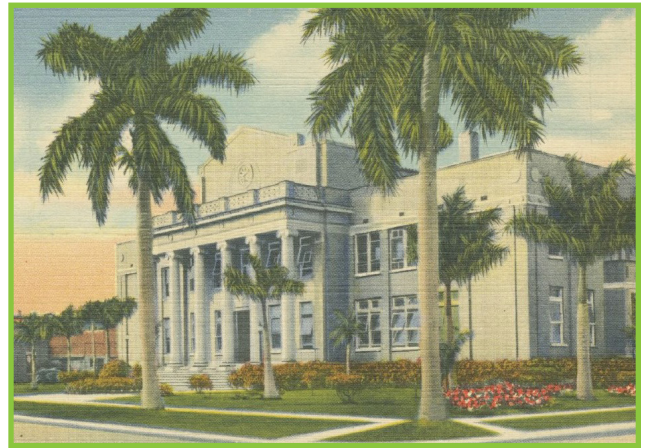


# Welcome & History

Decades of debate over the division of DeSoto County, Charlotte County's "parent" county since 1887, culminated in the successful election of pro-division officials to the state legislature in 1920. When the new session opened in the spring of 1921, that body passed, and newly-elected governor Cary A. Hardee signed, the legislation that established four new counties: Charlotte, Glades, Hardee and Highlands.

The name "Charlotte" was selected by a public vote per the suggestion of state senator F.M. Cooper of Punta Gorda, with the result announced on March 17, 1921 in the Punta Gorda Herald. Charlotte County officially came into being on April 23, 1921, with Punta Gorda designated the county seat.

Initially, government business was conducted in an office building on Marion Street. On April 15, 1927, the Herald announced that the county had purchased land on the corner of Taylor Street and Olympia Avenue belonging to George Brown for \$25,000. The following year, on March 20, the new Charlotte County courthouse was formally opened with great fanfare.



A contest to design the county seal was held in 1969. Kathy Nichols, an art student at Charlotte High School, won the contest and was awarded \$25. Her design illustrates the location of Charlotte County on a map of Florida, highlighting the area's great tarpon fishing.

The two-story administration building in Murdock opened in 1981, becoming the new home of the Board of County Commissioners. In 1985, Charlotte County adopted a Home Rule Charter giving the Board of County Commissioners the authorization to pass laws.



A new logo was launched in 2018, a variation of the successful tourism logo launched in 2016, to unify branding for both visitors and residents. The county seal continues to be used for legal documents such as ordinances and proclamations.



# Elected Officials

Charlotte County Government has several elected officials: the Board of County Commissioners, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Property Appraiser, Sheriff, Supervisor of Elections and Tax Collector. Each of these elected officials acts independently. In addition to the elected officials, the county also features a School Board and Airport Authority which act with independent authority.

## Board of County Commissioners

Charlotte County Administration Center  
18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33948  
941.743.1300 ■ email: [Assistant@CharlotteCountyFL.gov](mailto:Assistant@CharlotteCountyFL.gov)  
[CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://CharlotteCountyFL.gov)

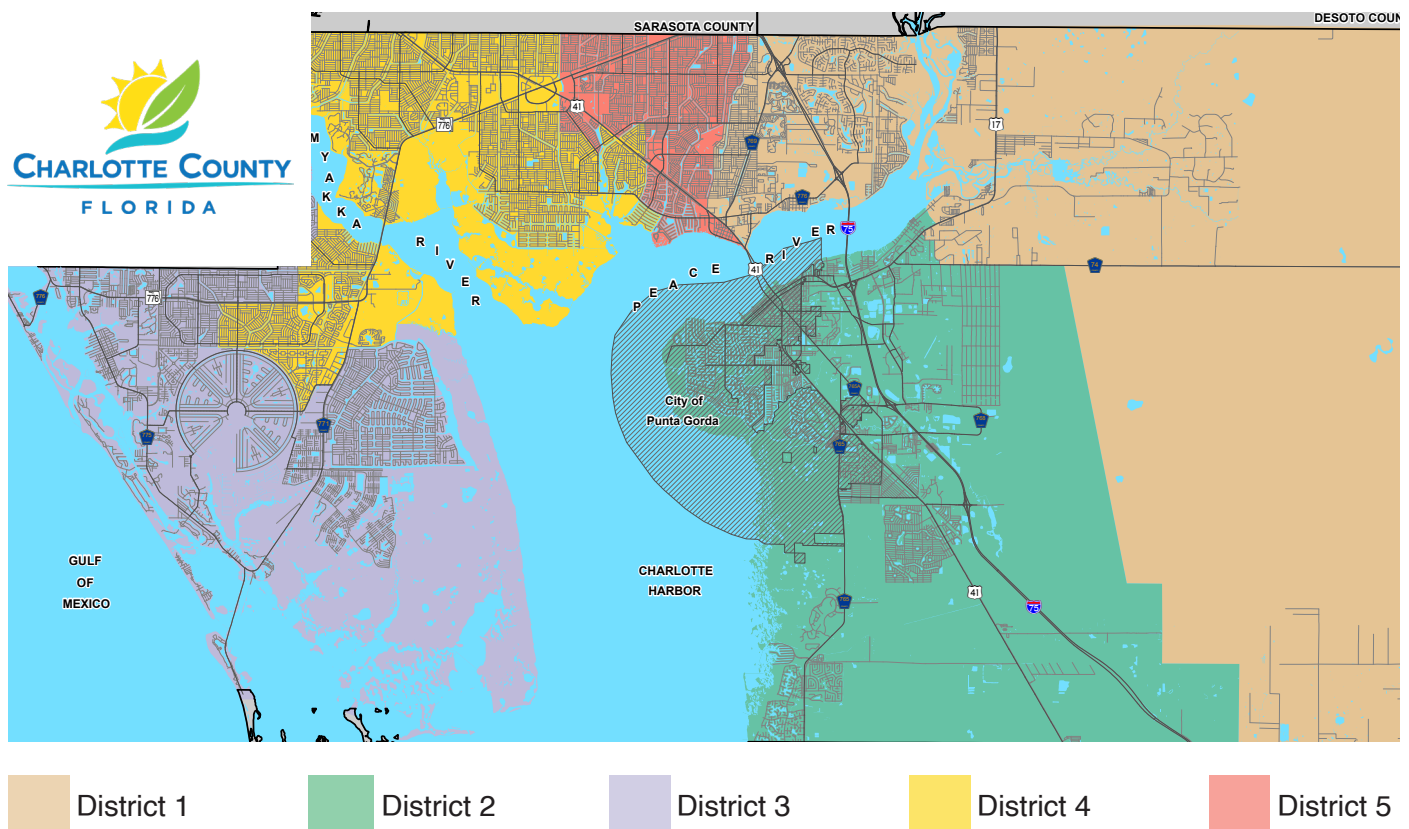


Charlotte County adopted a Home Rule Charter in 1985, giving the Board of County Commissioners the authorization to pass laws.

The county operates under an elected County Commission, composed of five Commissioners and an appointed County Administrator who is chosen by and responsible to the Board of County Commissioners. The County Administrator is the chief administrative officer of the county and is accountable for all administrative matters and operations under the authority of the commissioners.

The five Commissioners are elected for a four-year term by a county-wide vote. Commissioners from Districts 1, 3 and 5 are elected in presidential election years; Commissioners from Districts 2 and 4 are elected in alternating even years. The Board of County Commissioners meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month for regular Board meetings at the Murdock Administration Center in Port Charlotte.

## Charlotte County Commission Districts



# Elected Officials



## Clerk of the Circuit Court

Charlotte County Justice Center  
350 E. Marion Ave. Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
941.505.4716 ■ [www.CharlotteClerk.com](http://www.CharlotteClerk.com)

The Clerk of the Circuit Court is an officer of the courts and belongs to the judicial branch of government with the responsibilities of auditor and custodian of all county funds. As an officer of the law, the Clerk of the Circuit Court is accountable for keeping court records, issuing processes, entering judgements and managing

court funds. In Charlotte County, the Clerk is the official recorder who prepares and records minutes of all meetings of the County Commission. The Clerk also serves as the ex-officio auditor to the Board of County Commissioners. Other duties include issuing papers for arrests, issuing summons for the appearance of jurors and witnesses, and compensating jurors. In addition, the Clerk also oversees Civil, Traffic and Misdemeanor courts where marriage licenses and passports are issued and traffic fines are collected.

## Property Appraiser

18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33948  
941.743.1593 ■ [www.ccappraiser.com](http://www.ccappraiser.com)

The Property Appraiser is required to determine the just value of all real property and tangible personal property within Charlotte County annually as of Jan. 1. Just value is legally synonymous to 100 percent of fair market value. However, due to additional requirements of Florida law, the annual just value determined for real property is typically lower than the amount for which a property may sell.

Tangible personal property consists primarily of furniture, fixtures and equipment used in a business and the contents of rental properties. Filing of an annual return is required by March 1.

The Property Appraiser also administers property tax exemptions and agricultural classifications. The most recognized exemption is the homestead exemption, which decreases a property's taxable value by \$25,000 for qualifying homeowners, saving \$400 to \$500 in property taxes each year. An associated benefit is the annual "Save Our Homes" limitation on any increase in "assessed" value. The homestead exemption is available on property owned by legal residents of Florida who permanently reside thereon as of Jan. 1. Qualified homeowners are required to apply for any exemption by March 1.

In addition to the Murdock office, you can contact the Property Appraiser at the following locations:

**Mac V. Horton**  
**West Charlotte Annex**  
6868 San Casa Drive  
Englewood, FL 34224

**South County Annex**  
410 Taylor St.  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Agriculture:	941.743.1353
Real Property:	941.743.1498
Records/Exemptions:	941.743.1593
Tangible Personal Property:	941.743.1476



# Elected Officials

## Charlotte County Sheriff's Office

7474 Utilities Road, Punta Gorda, FL 33982

941.639.2101 ■ [www.ccsso.org](http://www.ccsso.org)

It is the mission of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office to provide professional law enforcement, detention and court security services to the citizens and visitors of Charlotte County.

It is the vision of the Sheriff's Office to be a leader in public safety, community service and crime control. We strive to integrate the community policing philosophies of developing partnerships with our community and maintaining a high quality of life through collaborative problem solving in everything we do. It is our vision that Charlotte County remain one of the safest and most enjoyable places to live and visit in the State of Florida.

The men and women of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office pledge to infuse our core values in every aspect of our service to our community. Integrity: We pledge to maintain a strong sense of honesty, morality, goodness, and ethical character. Professionalism: We are skilled in the performance of our duties and governed by the code of ethics. Trust: We pledge to treat those we serve and have sworn to protect with courtesy, respect, dignity, and compassion.



### District 1 Office

11051 Willmington Blvd.  
Englewood, FL 34224  
941.475.9005

### District 2 Office

992 Tamiami Trail  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948  
941.613.3245

### District 3 Office

3110 Loveland Blvd.  
Port Charlotte, FL 33980  
941.258.3900

### District 4 Office

7474 Utilities Road  
Punta Gorda, FL 33982  
941.639.2101

## Supervisor of Elections

226 Taylor St. Punta Gorda, FL 33950

941.833.5400 ■ [www.charlottevotes.com](http://www.charlottevotes.com)

The Supervisor of Elections Office serves the voters of Charlotte County by providing offices where voters may register, maintaining voter records, absentee balloting, candidate qualifying and signature verification.

In order to register to vote, you must be 18 years of age (may pre-register at 17), be a U.S. citizen and a legal resident of the Florida county where you intend to vote. A voter registration application must be completed and is available at the Supervisor of Elections offices, libraries and other public locations.

You may also register when you obtain your drivers license or when you apply for public assistance. Applications are available online at the Supervisor of Elections website. If this option is chosen, the completed application must be printed and mailed to the main office in Punta Gorda.



### Main Office

Charlotte County Courthouse  
226 Taylor St.  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
941.833.5400

### Murdock Annex

Charlotte County Administration Center  
18500 Murdock Circle  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948  
941.743.1387

### Englewood Annex

West County Annex  
6868 San Casa Drive  
Englewood, FL 34224  
941.681.3717



# Elected Officials

## Tax Collector

941.743.1350 ■ [www.taxcollector.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.taxcollector.CharlotteCountyFL.gov)

The Tax Collector is responsible for the collection of ad valorem taxes and other taxes set at the local level. The Tax Collector acts as an agent for several state departments, including the Department of Revenue, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Local Business Tax Receipts are collected by the Tax Collector and are renewable online.

The Tax Collector has four convenient locations:

Murdock Office	Punta Gorda Branch	Englewood Branch	Port Charlotte Branch
18500 Murdock Circle Port Charlotte, FL 33948 941.743.1350	410 Taylor St. Punta Gorda, FL 33950 941.743.1350	6868 San Casa Drive Englewood, FL 34224 941.743.1350	21229 Olean Blvd. Suite B Port Charlotte, FL 33952 941.743.1350

Registration, tag and title services for cars, trucks, trailers, vessels and mobile homes and disability parking permits can be obtained through any of the four offices. Limited driver's license services are available in our Englewood, Punta Gorda and Murdock offices. Specialty license plates are available for purchase—view the plates online at [www.flhsmv.gov/dmv/specialtytags](http://www.flhsmv.gov/dmv/specialtytags). Vehicle registration and license renewals are available online at: [GoRenew.com](http://GoRenew.com).

## On-Screen and Online Services

### Charlotte County CC-TV

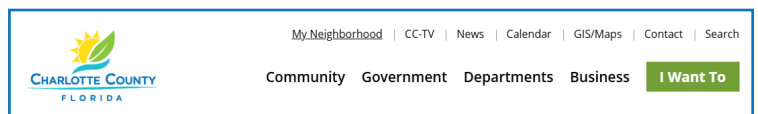


CC-TV is the county's information station providing access to Board of County Commissioners meetings, Code Enforcement Special Magistrate meetings, Punta Gorda City Council meetings, special documentaries and timely news-magazine stories along with local, state, and national satellite programming. Other programming includes Florida environmental and historical programs, public service announcements, public school videos, and educational videos. We are located on Comcast channel 20 and 97. Our broadcast is also streamed live 24/7 online at [CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://CharlotteCountyFL.gov). View HD videos on our YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/CCTVCharlotteCountyFL](http://www.youtube.com/CCTVCharlotteCountyFL).

### Charlotte County Website

[CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://CharlotteCountyFL.gov)

The county website provides residents and visitors with a convenient way to access information and services provided by the Commissioners, Administration, and departments that serve Charlotte County.



### Charlotte County, FL App

Connect with Charlotte County—report issues, track progress, and find county services everywhere you go using the Charlotte County, FL app on your smartphone. The app also lets you check the status of lightning alerts at county pools, watch CC-TV live, find trail guides for environmental parks and access our Visitor and Convention Bureau for fun things to do in Charlotte County. Go to your device's app store and search for Charlotte County, FL to download the free app.

# Getting Around

## Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

[www.flhsmv.gov](http://www.flhsmv.gov)

The Charlotte County Tax Collector (see page 9) handles the functions of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

The Englewood Branch of the Tax Collector's Office, located at 6868 San Casa Drive and the Punta Gorda Branch located at 410 Taylor St. offer driver's license services including testing for Charlotte County residents. The Murdock office, located at 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte offers limited driver's license service.

## Airports

The Charlotte County area is served by local and international airports.

### Punta Gorda Airport (PGD)

28000 A-1 Airport Road  
Punta Gorda, FL 33982  
941.639.1101

[www.flypgd.com](http://www.flypgd.com)

### Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW)

11000 Terminal Access Road  
Ft. Myers, FL 33913  
239.590.4800

[www.flylcpa.com](http://www.flylcpa.com)

### Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport (SRQ)

6000 Airport Circle  
Sarasota, FL 34234  
941.359.2770

[www.flysrq.com](http://www.flysrq.com)



### Tampa International Airport (TPA)

4100 George J. Bean Parkway  
Tampa, FL 33607  
813.870.8700

[www.tampaairport.com](http://www.tampaairport.com)

## Charlotte County Transit

Charlotte County Transit is a shared ride curb-to-curb transit service provided to the public throughout Charlotte County. The service area consists of most of Charlotte County and includes the Charlotte County portion of Englewood, Port Charlotte, and Punta Gorda.

### Reserve a Ride

Reservations are booked on a first-come-first-served service, taken from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. To request a trip with Charlotte County Transit please call 941.575.4000, Option 1 to make a reservation.

### Transportation Disadvantaged

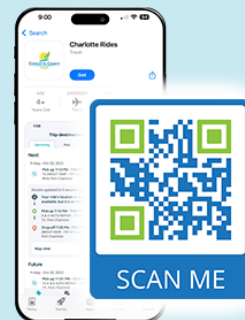
Individuals aged 60 or older, those with disabilities, or low-income may qualify for the Transportation Disadvantaged program. To apply, call 941.833.6233 for an application or visit

[www.charlotteCountyFL.gov/transit](http://www.charlotteCountyFL.gov/transit).

Transportation Disadvantaged Ombudsman dial: 1.800.983.2435

### Use the App

Planning your trip just got easier! Download the Charlotte Rides mobile app! To enroll call 941.575.4000 Option 1.



# City of Punta Gorda



The City of Punta Gorda is about 16 square miles and boasts a small town atmosphere with all the pleasures of a larger city. The economy is booming and the cost of living is well below the national average.

Punta Gorda, which was incorporated on December 7, 1887, is the only incorporated city in Charlotte County and has an approximate population of 18,790. It was originally named “Trabue” in 1885 after developer, Colonel Isaac Trabue, who purchased the land from British investors.

Punta Gorda has traced its roots to a landing at Live Oak Point on the Peace River by Hernando DeSoto in 1539. Punta Gorda is Spanish for “Broad Point” and refers to its broad point of land jutting out into the harbor. Early Spanish attempts to colonize the outer islands in present-day Charlotte County were thwarted by Calusa Indian tribes and the area was slowly settled as the English migrated to Charlotte Harbor on the banks of the Peace River.

In 1884, surveyor Kelley B. Harvey worked to lay out streets and blocks according to instructions from Isaac Trabue, then a Kentucky resident. All waterfront property was designated to be parks and the streets were not to run in a north-south direction, but rather, to wind along the Peace River. The Town of Trabue, a subdivision, was recorded on February 24, 1885; however, by 1887 enough residents in Trabue objecting to Trabue’s efforts to control the town’s destiny were able to outvote him and revert the name to Punta Gorda during the incorporation process. These 34 men, including four black men and carpenters stranded here after building the old Hotel Punta Gorda, met at the Tom Hector Building in Hector’s Pool Hall located upstairs from the town’s drug store to draft the City’s incorporation papers.

## City Elected Officials

City Hall

326 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda, FL 33950

941.575.3369 ■ [citycouncil@pgorda.us](mailto:citycouncil@pgorda.us)

[www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us](http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us)

Punta Gorda has a five-member Council elected at large for two-year terms to represent each of the city’s five districts. Elections are on a staggered basis each November, with three seats being elected one year and the other two elected the following year. All of the Council members are elected by district. The City Council then appoints its own Mayor and Vice Mayor from among the five Council members. City Council also appoints a City Attorney, City Clerk and City Manager. Punta Gorda practices a Council-Manager form of government, where the City Council is the legislative arm and the City Manager (as opposed to the Mayor) is the administrative arm of the government.

Punta Gorda’s City Council meetings are held the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall. All Council members may be reached through the Office of the City Clerk by mail or by telephone listed above.





# City of Punta Gorda

## Website



**[www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us](http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us)**

The city's website provides the most detailed and up-to-date information on public meetings and city announcements. The website has links to reports and city communications that are distributed by staff on a weekly basis. Also on the website are links to view taped webcasts of council meetings, information on all city departments, lists of events, citizen alerts, job opportunities, maps to parks, building permits online and an employee directory.

## Getting Involved

The city has several areas in which residents can become more involved with local government. One area is the Punta Gorda Police Department Volunteers in Policing (VIP) Program. In this program, eligible candidates may serve in a wide range of capacities. Positions are available during business hours Monday to Friday, with some opportunities available evening and weekend hours.

Another area residents can become involved is through service on one of the city's advisory boards and committees. Appointments are made from applications submitted to the City Clerk's Office by interested residents.

## City Services

### Administration

City Hall

326 W. Marion Ave. Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
941.575.3302 ■ [www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us](http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us)

The City Manager is the Chief Administrative Officer of the City who acts as a liaison between each City Department and City Council. The City Manager develops the City's annual budget for each fiscal year, directs the day-to-day operations of the City and approves all hirings, firings and disciplinary actions. The City Manager is also responsible for carrying out the policies and ordinances of the governing council, and for appointing the heads of the various departments

### Fire

Headquarters

1410 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
941.575.5529

The City Fire Department helps citizens to prevent and survive fires, renders emergency fire, rescue and medical assistance and provides assistance during other emergencies.

### Police

Public Safety Building

1410 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
941.639.4111

The City provides for the security and safety of citizens through the delivery of law enforcement services of the City Police.

### Public Works & Sanitation/Solid Waste

3130 Cooper St. Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
941.575.5050

### Utilities

3132 Cooper St. Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
Customer Service 941.575.3339  
Billing questions 941.639.2528  
After business & holidays 941.639.2057

# Arts & Museums

## Performing Arts



Charlotte Performing Arts Center  
701 Carmalita St. Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
941.505.7469

Created with community partnerships, CPAC brings the finest in performing arts and school events. CPAC is the home of the Charlotte Symphony and the Charlotte Chorale.

Charlotte Players

1182 Market Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33953  
941.255.1022 ■ [www.charlotteplayers.org](http://www.charlotteplayers.org)

The Charlotte Players is a volunteer community theater group is the oldest performing arts organization in Charlotte County. The group produces a variety of theatrical performances and offers acting classes, aiming to entertain, educate, and enrich the local culture through multiple seasonal productions at various venues.

## Visual Arts

Visual Arts Center  
210 Maud St. Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
941.639.8810 ■ [www.visualartcenter.org](http://www.visualartcenter.org)

Artists display their talents through numerous exhibitions. The center provides classes, workshops, competitions, and more for artists of all ages.



## Culture & Museums

Charlotte County Historical Center  
941.629.PAST (7278)  
*See page 14 for more information about Libraries & History.*



Military Heritage Museum  
900 West Marion Ave. Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
941.575.9002 ■ [www.militaryheritagemuseum.org](http://www.militaryheritagemuseum.org)

The museum has thousands of military artifacts on display starting from the Spanish-American War to the current conflict including uniforms, medals and equipment.

# Community Services

The Community Services department offers programs, events, activities and opportunities for all ages. Visit [CharlotteCountyFL.gov/recreation](http://CharlotteCountyFL.gov/recreation) to view the Community Services Guide.

## Parks

941.625.PLAY (7529)

Two public beaches and many parks, trails, boat ramps, canoe/kayak launch sites, swimming pools, skate parks, environmental parks, and sports fields.

## Recreation

941.625.PLAY (7529)

[Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center](#)

941.833.5444

[Charlotte Sports Park](#)

941.235.5010

Enjoy recreational activities at four recreation centers, three pools, event center and sports park.

Recreation Center Locations:

[Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park](#)

6961 San Casa Drive Englewood 941.681.3760

[Centennial Park](#)

1120 Centennial Blvd. Port Charlotte 941.613.3230

[Harold Avenue Park](#)

23400 Harold Ave. Port Charlotte 941.627.1074

[Port Charlotte Beach Park](#)

4500 Harbor Blvd. Port Charlotte 941.627.1628

[South County Regional Park](#)

670 Cooper St. Punta Gorda 941.505.8686

[Tringali Park](#)

3460 N. Access Road, Englewood 941.681.3742

Aquatic Facilities:

[Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park](#)

7001 San Casa Drive, Englewood 941.681.3743

[Centennial Park](#)

1120 Centennial Blvd. Port Charlotte 941.627.1628

[Port Charlotte Beach Park](#) (temporarily closed)

4500 Harbor Blvd. Port Charlotte 941.629.0170

[South County Regional Park](#)

670 Cooper St. Punta Gorda 941.505.8686

## Extension Service

941.764.4340

1120 Centennial Blvd., Port Charlotte

A partnership between the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, the USDA and Charlotte County to provide scientific knowledge and expertise to the public.

## Libraries & History

941.613.3200

The Libraries and History Division provides materials (both physical and virtual), assistance and computers to meet the information and recreation needs of the community; meeting spaces for community groups and businesses; historic preservation and exhibits; programs and events to support literacy and lifelong learning and provide education about the history of Charlotte County. Library cards are free to residents with photo ID and proof of residency in Charlotte County.

Library Locations:

[Mid-County Regional Library](#) (temporarily closed)

2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd. Port Charlotte

941.613.3166

[Englewood Charlotte Public Library](#)

3450 N. Access Road, Englewood

941.681.3736

[Port Charlotte Public Library](#)

2280 Aaron St. Port Charlotte

941.764.5562

[Punta Gorda Charlotte Library](#)

424 W. Henry St. Punta Gorda

941.833.5460

## Natural Resources

941.613.3220

Manages county-owned environmental properties, the Conservation Charlotte Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition Program, and assists with environmental permitting issues, scrub jay locations, strategies, policies and procedures with state and federal departments and agencies.



## Fire & EMS

Charlotte County Fire & EMS is a full service career department that operates out of 18 stations, employs over 300 personnel that respond to more than 40,000 incidents a year.

Our highly trained, dedicated personnel serves both emergency and non-emergency needs of our citizens, providing Advanced Life Support Emergency Medical Services, fire suppression and prevention. Emergency response teams include the Special Operations Team, Marine Operations Team, Swat Medics and the Punta Gorda Airport Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) Team. Additionally, the department provides innovative public education and injury prevention programs such as the Red Dot Medical Information Program, and Smoke Detector Program and Fire Extinguisher Training.

**Emergency - Call 911**

[Charlotte County Fire & EMS](#)

[General Information, Smoke Detector and other program questions](#)

941.833.5600

[Poison Control](#)

800.222.1222

## Animal Control

26571 Airport Road, Punta Gorda, FL 33982

Dispatch: 941.833.5690, option 1

Office hours: Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

After hours emergencies: Contact Charlotte County Sheriff at 941.639.2101

Animal Control is dedicated to educating our community about responsible pet ownership and safety, ensuring pet owners follow regulations like licensing, vaccinations, and leash laws. Enforcing animal-related Ordinances and State Statutes, animal control investigates animal cruelty and neglect cases, animals in distress, and complaints about dangerous animals. Services include animal trapping, impoundment, and nuisance-related incidents involving domestic animals, livestock, and wildlife.

## Office of Emergency Management

26571 Airport Road, Punta Gorda, FL 33982  
941.833.4000

The county's Office of Emergency Management is responsible for coordinating all activities necessary to protect Charlotte County communities from natural and man-made disasters. The office develops and maintains disaster plans, provides education, and offers resources to foster a Culture of Preparedness in Charlotte County, including training the Community Emergency Response Team.

[Hurricane Preparedness Information](#)

National Hurricane Center ■ [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)

The National Hurricane Center issues advisories for tropical depressions, storms and hurricanes.

[Tropical Storms and Hurricanes](#)

A Tropical Storm Watch is issued when sustained winds of 39-73 mph could pose a threat in a specified area within 48 hours. A Tropical Storm Warning is issued when tropical storm conditions are expected in the specified area within 36 hours.

A Hurricane Watch is issued up to 48 hours before landfall and indicates that everyone in the designated area should prepare to take protective measures if a Hurricane Warning is issued. A Hurricane Warning is issued when hurricane conditions are expected in the designated area within 36 hours. When a Hurricane Warning is issued, precautions should be taken immediately.

Pick up a copy of the Disaster Planning Guide at most county buildings. Charlotte County's flood zone and storm surge evacuation zone maps are online at [CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://CharlotteCountyFL.gov). Under the Community menu click the Flood Information link.

[Know Your Zone](#)

Areas vulnerable to flooding from heavy rains and storm surge are part of evacuation zones that are identified throughout the county by red, orange, yellow and green markers on street and stop signs.

# Hospitals

## AdventHealth Port Charlotte

Formerly ShorePoint Health Port Charlotte  
2500 Harbor Blvd. Port Charlotte, FL 33952  
941.766.4122 ■

[www.adventhealth.com/hospital/adventhealth-port-charlotte](http://www.adventhealth.com/hospital/adventhealth-port-charlotte)

AdventHealth Port Charlotte is a non-profit hospital offering a range of services, including emergency care, heart and vascular care, orthopedic services, and surgical care. The hospital is committed to whole-person care, addressing the body, mind, and spirit.

Note: The former hospital in Punta Gorda (ShorePoint Health Punta Gorda) is permanently closed



## HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital

21298 Olean Blvd. Port Charlotte, FL 33952  
941.629.1181 ■ [www.fawcetthospital.com](http://www.fawcetthospital.com)

HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital is a 265-bed, full-service acute care hospital serving Charlotte County and the surrounding areas since 1975.

Clinical specialties include 24-hour emergency care center, three freestanding emergency rooms located in Charlotte & Lee counties. A comprehensive accredited cancer program, comprehensive stroke center, nationally

recognized orthopedic and spine program, wound management and hyperbaric medicine, inpatient and outpatient surgery, state-of-the-art cardiovascular surgery program, sports & rehabilitation services, and many outpatient programs.

# Public Health Services

## Florida Department of Health in Charlotte County

1100 Loveland Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL 33980  
941.624.7200 | [www.charlotte.floridahealth.gov](http://www.charlotte.floridahealth.gov)

The Florida Department of Health in Charlotte County (DOH-Charlotte) offers a variety of services to protect and improve the health of all residents. Services include childhood and adult immunizations, health screenings such as blood pressure checks and STD testing, and family planning assistance including birth control and pregnancy testing. The department also provides access to the WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) nutrition program for qualifying families, as well as certified copies of birth and death certificates for Florida residents. DOH-Charlotte also plays a critical role in emergency preparedness and disaster response, supporting shelter health services and coordinating public health efforts during hurricanes and other emergencies. Many services are provided on a sliding fee scale based on household income.

# Education

## Charlotte County Public Schools

Administrative Offices, 1445 Education Way, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

941.255.0808 ■ [www.yourcharlotteschools.net](http://www.yourcharlotteschools.net)

Contact administrative offices above about registration and placement. Local school contact information:

Baker Pre-K Center	941.575.5470	Sallie Jones Elementary	941.575.5440
Deep Creek Elementary	941.255.7535	Vineland Elementary	941.697.6600
East Elementary	941.575.5475	L.A. Ainger Middle School	941.697.5800
Kingsway Elementary	941.255.7590	Murdock Middle School	941.255.7525
Liberty Elementary	941.255.7515	Port Charlotte Middle School	941.255.7460
Meadow Park Elementary	941.255.7470	Punta Gorda Middle School	941.575.5485
Myakka River Elementary	941.697.7111	Charlotte High School	941.575.5450
Neil Armstrong Elementary	941.255.7450	Lemon Bay High School	941.474.7702
Peace River Elementary	941.255.7622	Port Charlotte High School	941.255.7485

## Alternative Education, Local Colleges & Universities

Charlotte County offers residents a variety of choices for continuing and higher education. Whether you are a first-time or returning student, the county has education opportunities for your career goals.

Southern Technical College ■ 877.347.5492 ■ [www.southerntech.edu](http://www.southerntech.edu)

Adult Career Center ■ 941.255.7555 ■ [ctc.yourcharlotteschools.net/acchome](http://ctc.yourcharlotteschools.net/acchome)

The Academy at Charlotte Technical College ■ 941.255.7545 ■ [academy.yourcharlotteschools.net](http://academy.yourcharlotteschools.net)

Charlotte Technical College ■ 941.255.7500 ■ [ctc.yourcharlotteschools.net](http://ctc.yourcharlotteschools.net)

Charlotte Harbor Center ■ 941.255.7440 ■ [chc.yourcharlotteschools.net](http://chc.yourcharlotteschools.net)

Florida SouthWestern State College, Charlotte Campus ■ 941.637.5629 ■ [www.fsw.edu/charlotte](http://www.fsw.edu/charlotte)

## Pet Adoption

The local Suncoast Humane Society and the Animal Welfare League have many loving cats and dogs needing a good home. Access more information and view potential pets online or visit in person.



### Suncoast Humane Society

6781 San Casa Drive, Englewood, FL 34224

941.474.7884 ■ [www.humane.org](http://www.humane.org)

### Animal Welfare League

3519 Drance St. Port Charlotte, FL 33980 ■

941.625.6720 ■ [www.awlshelter.org](http://www.awlshelter.org)



# Human Services

21500 Gibraltar Drive, Port Charlotte  
941.833.6500

[www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/HumanServices](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/HumanServices)

## Family Services Center

The Family Services Center is a collaboration among government and non-profit agencies working together to provide an integrated client service delivery system. Agencies at the center offer health and human services to Charlotte County individuals and families.



## Veteran Services

941.764.5579

Veterans Services provides information and claims assistance with obtaining benefits to veterans, their dependents, and their survivors through outreach and one-on-one counseling. Additional assistance may be requested as needed to provide in-home counseling to disabled and home-bound veterans at their places of residence, including nursing homes and adult living facilities.

## Aging & Adult Services

Aging and Adult Services coordinates ongoing home and community services to frail or socially isolated seniors and adults with disabilities through state and federal grants. Services managed include case management, personal care, homemaker, transportation, individual nutrition services, household chores, medication management, and respite/companion care. Referrals for services are provided through the Elder Helpline 866-41-ELDER (866.413.5337).

## Intake Services

Intake Services provides assessment and prioritization for persons seeking human services programs such as utility assistance, water, housing, on-site food pantry, case coordination, referral and follow-ups.

### Utility Assistance

**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** provides financial assistance for electric bills for low-income families.

**Emergency Home Energy Assistance for the Elderly Program (EHEAP)** provides financial assistance for electric bills for low-income families, with at least one-person age 60 and older.

**Heartship Program** provides financial assistance with Charlotte County Utility water bills for low-income families.

## Family Stability Services

Family Stability includes financial and supportive services to help low-income residents with housing costs, disaster and emergency related repairs, financial counseling, educational and employment supports, juvenile diversion and community outreach. The division's focus is to move families towards resiliency, self-sufficiency and an improved quality of life.

## Neighborhood Services

### Affordable Housing Development

Charlotte HOME (Housing Opportunities Made Easier) is a program designed to increase the inventory of affordable housing by reducing barriers, incentivizing and subsidizing new development and to maintain and preserve existing inventory. Incentives for developers include (but are not limited to): expedited permitting; impact fee waiver; land donation; density; fee subsidies; construction loans; etc.

# Utilities, Garbage & Recycling

## Water/Sewer

### Utilities Department

941.764.4300

The Utilities Department supplies safe, potable water to more than 72,000 homes and businesses and sanitary sewer services to more than 48,000 homes and businesses. In its four water reclamation facilities, Utilities reclaims wastewater to create reuse water, which is safely used for irrigation by golf courses and other facilities. Utilities also maintains more than 1,500 miles of water mains, more than 1,100 miles of sewer lines and mains, 80 miles of reuse water transmission lines and more than 5,800 fire hydrants in Utilities' service area.

### Payment Locations

Online:

[www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/utilities](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/utilities)

Click Pay My Bill

East Port Campus 941.764.4300

(Drop box Only)

25550 Harbor View Road, Port Charlotte, FL

Charlotte County Administration Center

(Drop box and Customer Payment Center)

18500 Murdock Circle, B109, Port Charlotte, FL

West County Annex (Drop box Only)

6868 San Casa Drive, Englewood, FL



## Garbage & Recycling

All single-family residences of unincorporated Charlotte County are provided one 65 or 95 gallon garbage cart and one recycling cart. (Residents of the city of Punta Gorda should call 941.575.5050 for more information on their area services.) Residential curbside collections are Monday through Friday with the exception of Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Garbage and recycling carts must be placed at the end of the driveway with the wheels of the carts facing the home. Leave five feet of clearance between each of your disposables: yard trimmings, garbage cart, recycling cart and electronics.

All recyclable materials may be mixed together in the recycling cart—sorting is not necessary. Even though the materials are mixed in the truck, they will be separated and processed at a material recycling facility. Garden hoses, pool covers, clothing and plastic grocery bags are not permitted in the recycle carts.

Household Hazardous Materials are not acceptable for recycling. Any product labeled toxic, poison, corrosive, flammable, or irritant should not be placed in recycling carts. If hazardous materials are found in the bins, they will be tagged with a warning notice and not serviced.



### Mini-Transfer and Recycling Facilities

There are two facilities to serve residents. The Mid-County Facility is located at 19765 Kenilworth Blvd. Port Charlotte and the West Charlotte facility is at 7070 Environmental Way, Englewood.

For additional information, including looking up the collection day for an address, visit [CharlotteCountyFL.gov/solidwaste](http://CharlotteCountyFL.gov/solidwaste) or call the Solid Waste Division at 941.764.4360 or 941.697.4000, ext. 4360 (for Englewood residents).

# Community Development

The Community Development Department administers and enforces county Land Development regulations, the Florida Building Code, and are responsible for the preparation and implementation of the county's Comprehensive Plan.

## Building Construction Services

Building Construction Services is responsible for protecting the public health, safety and general welfare of all county citizens as they relate to the construction and occupancy of buildings and structures, and facilitates the construction process. Call 941.743.1201 for help with these services:

### Contractor Licensing Division

Monitors contractors' licensing and ensures contractors have the correct licenses and insurance, disciplines contractors in accordance with local and state laws, maintains the licenses of state contractors working in the county, issues licenses or permits for some types of businesses, and provides guidance for unsafe building abatement.

### Plans Review Section

Ensures proposed buildings meet all applicable life safety and welfare codes prior to construction, and work closely with contractors, owners, engineers, and architects.

### Inspections Section

Ensures that construction matches plans approved by the Plans Review section, inspect the building during the construction phase, and have the ability to stop construction should the work not meet all applicable life safety codes.

### Code Compliance Division

Enforces the Zoning Code, International Property Maintenance Code, Florida Building Code and various other county codes.

## Planning, Zoning and Land Information

These divisions implement the county Comprehensive Plan and other land development regulations, and oversee public and private land development:

### Comprehensive Planning Division

Responsible for creating, maintaining and implementing the county Comprehensive Plan and Community and Neighborhood Plans.

### Special Projects Division (mapping)

941.764.4129

Assigns addresses to recorded lots and parcels and sells maps such as aerials, zoning areas, and general development features.

### Zoning Division

941.743.1964

Reviews proposed residential, commercial and industrial land development plans for permitted land uses, building size, building setbacks, fence placement, coordinates lot splits, street and plat vacations, and other land development issues. Also determines impact fee amounts, and enforces the Zoning Code.



# Public Works

The Public Works Department utilizes a skilled, engaged workforce to enhance the quality of life for Charlotte County residents by continually improving infrastructure and providing services in a cost-effective manner to meet the needs of the community.

The Public Works Department builds and maintains roadways, bridges, navigable waterways, stormwater infrastructure, traffic lights and signs, rights-of-ways and landscaping in unincorporated areas of Charlotte County while protecting and preserving the environment.

Residents can report safety or health issues relating to roads, bridges, rights of way, and drainage or other deficiencies related to the county's infrastructure by submitting an online service request or by calling 941.575.3600.

■ [Online Service Requests](#) [CharlotteCountyFL.gov](https://CharlotteCountyFL.gov) click Contact Us.

- Brush/Tree Overgrowth
- Drainage Problem
- Guardrail or Handrail Damage
- Pothole/Roadway Damage
- Traffic or Street Signs
- Sidewalk
- Pipe or Pipe Cleaning
- Traffic Signals
- Street Light Request and Repair
- Mosquito & Aquatic Weed Control

Charlotte County Administration Center

941.743.1200

[CharlotteCountyFL.gov](https://CharlotteCountyFL.gov)

